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a set/counter key arranged at a top left of a touch screen-panel; and
a copy key, a copy server key, and a printer key arranged at a left-hand side of the
touch-screen panel, below the set counter key.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 26-39 are presently active. Claims 30-39 have been added by the present supplemental amendment. The additions to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,880,851 to Imada (hereinafter "the '851 patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,812,900 to Hashimoto et al. (hereinafter "the '900 patent"), U.S. Patent No. 4,619,514 to Ide (hereinafter "the '514 patent"), U.S. Patent No. 4,448,515 to Ishikawa (hereinafter "the '515 patent"), and U.S. Patent No. 6,353,482 to Abe et al. (hereinafter "the '482 patent").

Arguments in support of the patentability of Claims 11 and 26-29 were presented in the amendment filed April 2, 2003, and will not be repeated herein.

The present amendment also sets forth new Claims 30-39 for examination on the merits. New Claims 30-39 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.¹ New Claim 30 is directed to an image forming apparatus having an operation unit, wherein a clear/stop key is arranged at a right-hand-side of and independently of numeral keys and an enter key on an operation and display section of the operation unit. New

¹ See pages 6 and 7 of the specification.

Claim 31 is directed to an image forming apparatus having an operational unit wherein a program key, a reset/pre-key, and an interrupt key are arranged above numeral keys and an enter key. Further, new Claim 34 is directed to an image forming apparatus having an operation unit, wherein a trial key is arranged at the right-hand-side of and independently of numeral keys and an enter key. Applicants respectfully submit that the '851, '900, '514, '515, and '482 patents, taken either singly or in proper combination, fail to disclose the particular arrangement of the keys recited in independent Claims 30, 31, and 34.

New Claims 36, 37, and 39 each recite an image forming apparatus having a set/counter key. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth in the amendment filed April 2, 2003, Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 36, 37, and 39 patentably define over the cited references.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 11 (and dependent Claims 26-29), Claim 30, Claim 31 (and dependent Claims 32 and 33), Claim 34 (and dependent Claim 35), Claim 36, Claim 37 (and dependent Claim 38), and Claim 39 patentably define over the cited references.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

30-39. (New)